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20 May 2024

Dear Cllr Morgan,

HS2 Funding

Thank you for writing to the Prime Minister regarding rail infrastructure investment following the cancellation of Phase 2 of High Speed 2 (HS2). I apologise for the delay in responding.

The UK Government is responsible for heavy rail infrastructure investment across England and Wales, and therefore provides funding for heavy rail infrastructure in Wales rather than providing Barnett funding to the Welsh Government. The Welsh Government receives funding to manage its devolved responsibilities effectively, benefiting from approximately 20% more funding per capita than equivalent spending by the UK Government in England.

In October 2023, following the cancellation of Phase 2 of HS2, the Prime Minister announced Network North, a new £36 billion plan to improve transport across Wales, England and Scotland. This marks a change in UK Government's approach to transport infrastructure, and UK Government will take every pound that would have been spent on HS2 and invest it in transport infrastructure that benefits more people in more places.

As you will know, this includes allocating £1 billion to fund the electrification of the North Wales Main Line, bringing parts of North Wales within an hour of Manchester and better connecting North Wales with London. This work will oversee more punctual, reliable journeys on the 105-mile route between Crewe, Warrington, Chester, Llandudno and Holyhead, where ferry services run to Dublin.

The UK Government is committed to improving Welsh rail infrastructure and has invested an additional £390 million in recent years, including supporting Cardiff Central Station upgrades and re-signalling on the Cambrian Line. The UK Government has also made a £500m contribution to the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal, which provides an investment fund for the region and supports the delivery of the South



UK Government
Llywodraeth y DU

Ref: 038SOS24

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Wales Metro. Additionally, in Rhondda Cynon Taf, Porth Transport Hub has received over £3.5 million funding through the UK Government Levelling Up Fund, which will deliver a modern and attractive transport interchange at the heart of Porth town centre.

I would like to thank you for taking the time to raise this important issue with the Prime Minister and I hope this response is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon David TC Davies MP
Secretary of State for Wales
Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru